

Minutes of AFC Nov 9 Meeting

Present: Steve DeAngelis, Ed Dodge, Maggie Edmondson, Eric Johnson. Elaine Katz, Marianne Perry

Guest: Jim Tukey

Minutes of Oct 12, 2022 were Approved

New Business:

- 1) Readfield U for next March 2023 – enthusiastic discussion ensued about what resources are already available and what we would need to start it back up next March.

Maggie indicated that she already has a website set up and a list of instructors that were involved previously.

We would have to proceed with the following:

- 1) Call previous instructors to see if they are still interested and reach out to additional potential instructors.
- 2) Set a calendar of activities to be offered at various locations – Giles Hall, the Masonic Building and Readfield Church
- 3) Develop a plan for publicity that would begin in January 2023 including flyers, e-announcements, Advertiser and Channel 7
- 4) Elaine volunteered to be the Registrar
It was suggested that Maggie set a date for a Readfield U working meeting to get this wonderful offering off the ground.

- 2) December Article for the Messenger

Elaine volunteered to put together an update of Fall activities and plans for next year.

- 3) Volunteers for Balsam House

Melissa Small, Readfield Librarian, has asked if the AFC could identify a volunteer to bring and return books loaned to the Balsam House residents.

She anticipates this time commitment to be one hour, once a month. Ideally this would be the same individual who would get to know the reading interests

of the residents who are participating in this program. There is already a library volunteer who is also providing this service.

Marianne volunteered to look over our volunteer list and call people to see if there is interest.

Old Business:

- 1) Updates to the Handy Helper flyer – this project has been put on hold until the data from the current Readfield Business Survey is compiled.
- 2) Update on AF present at November Election – Eric and Marianne provided coverage for most of election day. They both reported lots of interest and Enthusiasm – many people said they did not know the Handy Helper program even existed. The AFC hopes to continue these outreach opportunities.
- 3) Follow-up on file cabinet for AF resources and materials – Eric volunteered to shop for a 2 drawer file cabinet – a used one will be acceptable.
- 4) Technology sessions at the Library – Melissa reported that the individual providing the tutoring was traveling to Readfield from Rockland so this was not going to be a practical long-term solution. The AFC will try to find a Handy Helper volunteer who would be interested in providing one on one technical assistance.

We wonder if there might be High School students willing to offer this as part of their community service. We will consult more with Steve about this possibility.

- 5) Update on Senior Café – Steve DeAngelis reported back that Rick Sirois, Middle School Principal, discussed this with his staff and there is great interest. It was suggested to organize a meeting that could include people who were previously involved with the Senior Café to talk about what worked and what can be improved.

Steve will ask Romaine about the history of and will reach out to June Wagner, the Tolmans and Cynthia Cushing. Marianne agreed to attend this organizational meeting.

Part of the discussion was how to create more interaction between seniors and students probably with the assistance of a more structured visit.

Additionally, Steve reported that the high school principal plans to establish a Service Club that could interface with the needs of seniors identified through the AFC.

- 6) Follow-up on the Nov 1 Marty Stevens Interactive and Improvisational Theater presentation. This event was co-sponsored with Readfield Community Library. Attendance was more than anticipated – 21 attendees. Melissa did an exceptional job publicizing this event in email sources, the Advertiser and even the KJ.

AFC helped with set up and refreshments. Lots of positive feedback. Hopefully, this will be the inspiration for many more cooperative endeavors.

Guest Speaker: Jim Tukey presenting the history and plans for the Vestry. It was truly enlightening and exciting to learn more about this project.

The Vestry dates back to 1809 (predating the Meeting House) and was previously located where the Doorenbros mansion now stands. It was moved to its present location on Church Road by oxen.

In 1909 a Board of Directors was formed

In 2013 – the board voted to give the Vestry away

In 2015 – the board reversed its decision

In 2018 – the board decided to approve funds for the Vestry and to develop a plan.

In 2019 – the board created a vision for the Vestry to serve as a place for social and cultural activities – a community center

Currently the building is undergoing major renovations to bring it up to all current codes with the focus on the kitchen and bathroom. Up to this point all labor and material have been donated.

The actual owner of the property is the Readfield Union Meeting House and Vestry Company

The AFC is truly appreciative of the time Jim spent answering our questions and brainstorming ideas for how AFC can connect with this project.

The idea that emerged was that AFC hopes to connect with the Friends and offer programs about the history and future plans for the Vestry during Readfield U next March.

Also, Maggie will find the volunteer list compiled last November and send Jim the name of the person who offered to help with grant writing and financial matters.

Meeting Adjourned 10:40

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine

Next meeting Dec.14